

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the final Office Action dated August 8, 2006. This amendment should be entered, the application allowed, and the case passed to issue. No new matter or considerations are raised by this amendment. The amendment to claim 14 is in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation to place the application in condition for allowance. Claims 15 and 17 are amended to maintain proper dependency upon amended claim 14.

Claims 1-5, 12-15, 17, and 24 are pending in this application. Claims 1-5 have been rejected. Claims 12-15, 17, and 24 were withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claims 14, 15, and 17 have been amended. Claims 6-11, 16, and 18-23 have been canceled.

Restriction

Rejoinder of claims 12-15, 17, and 24 is respectfully requested. The Examiner indicated that claims 12-17 and 24 would be rejoined and allowed if claim 14 were amended in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation and claims 6-11 and 18-23 were canceled. Claim 14 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's recommendations and claims 6-11 and 18-23 have been canceled in this response. In addition, claim 16 has been canceled, as all the limitations of claim 16 have been added to claim 14. Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's helpful suggestions.

Obviousness Double Patenting

Claims 1-5 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-25 of copending Application No. 10/764,602. This rejection is traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof respectfully requested.

In response to this rejection, Applicant has filed a terminal disclaimer concurrently with the filing of this Amendment. In light of the terminal disclaimer, Applicant submits that the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection in view of copending application Ser. No. 10/764,602 should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-5 would be allowable if a terminal disclaimer was filed. The Examiner further indicated that claims 12-17, and 24 would be rejoined and allowed if claim 14 were amended in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation and claims 6-11 and 18-23 were canceled. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter.

A terminal disclaimer has been filed, claim 14 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's recommendations, and claims 6-11 and 18-23 have been canceled in this response. Claim 16 has also been canceled, as the limitations from claim 16 have been added to claim 14. In addition, claims 15 and 17 have been amended to maintain proper dependency. As only allowable claims 1-5, 14, 15, 17, and 24 remain pending in this application, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this amendment should be entered, the application allowed, and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

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including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP



Bernard P. Codd

Registration No. 46,429

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 BPC:kap
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: November 7, 2006

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